



St. Johns County unemployment rate at 2.4%, below state rate of 3.2%

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The St. Johns County unemployment rate was about as low as it's been in the last two decades in September at 2.4%.

In a release Friday from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), Florida's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.2% in September 2019, down 0.1 percentage point from the August 2019 rate and down 0.1 percentage point from a year ago. There were 336,000 jobless Floridians out of a labor force of 10.4 million. Individual county unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

The U.S. unemployment rate was 3.5 percent in September.

Monroe County had the state's lowest unemployment rate in September at 2%, followed by Okaloosa County (2.3%), St. Johns County (2.4%) and Walton County (2.5%).

For St. Johns County, the rate has not been lower than 2.4% since December 1999 when it was 2.3%. September's rate was a drop of 0.5% from August and 0.2% compared to September 2018. The county labor force has grown by more than 2,000 in the last 12 months to 131,042.

Hendry County had the highest unemployment rate 7.1% in Florida in September, followed by Hardee County (5.6%), Citrus County and Highlands County (4.3% each), and Sumter County (4.1%).

Among the counties that border St. Johns, Clay County had the lowest unemployment rate in September at 2.8%, followed by Duval County (3%), Flagler County (3.4%) and Putnam County (3.8%).

According to the DEO, the number of jobs in Florida was 9.05 million in September, up 224,700 jobs compared to a year ago. The industry gaining the most jobs was education and health services (59,600 jobs, 4.5%).

Area jobless rates

County Rate

St. Johns 2.4%

Clay 2.8%,

Duval 3%

Flagler 3.4%

Putnam 3.8%

Other industries gaining jobs over the year included: professional and business services (49,200 jobs, 3.6%); leisure and hospitality (30,300 jobs, 2.5%); trade, transportation, and utilities (20,400 jobs, 1.1%); financial activities (19,100 jobs, 3.3%) and construction (16,200 jobs, 2.9%).